

NEWS RELEASE

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Montgomery County Man Pleads Guilty to Child Exploitation, Transportation of Child Pornography

Springfield, Illinois -- Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that Elisha Pasdeck, age 31, of Nokomis, entered pleas of guilty today to foreign travel to engage in sexual activity with a juvenile and interstate transportation of child pornography. U.S. District Judge Jeanne E. Scott scheduled sentencing for July 10, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. in federal court in Springfield, Illinois.

During today's court hearing, Pasdeck admitted that he traveled to Canada in July 2002 to meet and engage in sexual activity with a 12-year-old boy whom he had met via the Internet. Pasdeck's trip was preceded by extensive Internet "chat" with the boy. In May 2005, Pasdeck admitted that he again traveled to Canada and was stopped by Canadian border authorities who discovered child pornography on his computer equipment.

Pending sentencing, Pasdeck will remain under home confinement including electronic monitoring with additional special restrictions including removal of Internet service from his residence, restricted telephone access, no contact with minors under age 18, and monitoring by U.S. Probation officers.

The offense of traveling to engage in sex with a juvenile carries a maximum sentence of 15 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000. The maximum sentence for transportation of child pornography is 20 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

The charges are the result of an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement with assistance from the Nokomis Police Department and the Canadian Border Services Agency. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John Childress. The lead investigator is Special Agent Michael Mitchell, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

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